

Application No. 10/810,386
Amendment dated May 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 10, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn). A method of making a structurally stable hydroentangled flame-retardant nonwoven fabric comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a first layer precursor web comprising a blend of lyocell fiber and modacrylic fiber;
- b. providing a second precursor web comprising a blend of lyocell fiber, modacrylic fiber, and para-amid fiber;
- c. positioning said first precursor web atop said second precursor web; and
- d. hydroentangling said first and second precursor webs so as to form said nonwoven fabric.

Claim 2 (withdrawn). A method of making a structurally stable hydroentangled flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein said first layer comprises a blend of 60% lyocell fiber and 40% modacrylic fiber.

Claim 3 (withdrawn). A method of making a structurally stable hydroentangled flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein said second layer comprises a blend of 42% lyocell fiber, 37% modacrylic fiber, and 21% para-amid fiber.

Claim 4 (withdrawn). A method of making a structurally stable three-dimensionally imaged flame-retardant nonwoven fabric comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a first layer precursor web comprising a blend of lyocell fiber and modacrylic fiber;
- b. providing a second precursor web comprising a blend of lyocell fiber, modacrylic fiber, and para-amid fiber;
- c. providing a three-dimensional image transfer device;
- d. positioning said first precursor web atop said second precursor web;
- e. advancing said first and second precursor webs onto said three-dimensional image transfer device; and
- f. hydroentangling said first and second precursor webs so as to form said imaged nonwoven fabric.

Claim 5 (currently amended). A structurally stable hydroentangled flame-retardant nonwoven fabric comprising a nonwoven first layer and a nonwoven second layer, wherein said first layer comprises a blend of lyocell fiber and modacrylic fiber and said second layer comprises a blend ~~or~~ of lyocell fiber, modacrylic fiber, and para-amid fiber, whereby said first and second layers are hydroentangled so as to form said fabric.

Claim 6 (currently amended). A structurally stable three-dimensionally imaged flame-retardant nonwoven fabric comprising a first layer and a second layer, wherein said first layer comprises a blend of lyocell fiber and modacrylic fiber and said second

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layer comprises a blend ~~or~~ of lyocell fiber, modacrylic fiber, and para-amid fiber, whereby said first and second layers are hydroentangled on a three-dimensional image transfer device so as to form said fabric.

Claim 7 (new). A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric in accordance with claim 5, wherein said first layer comprises a blend of 60% lyocell fiber and 40% modacrylic fiber.

Claim 8 (new). A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric in accordance with claim 5, wherein said second layer comprises a blend of 42% lyocell fiber, 37% modacrylic fiber, and 21% para-amid fiber.

Claim 9 (new). A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric in accordance with claim 6, wherein said first layer comprises a blend of 60% lyocell fiber and 40% modacrylic fiber.

Claim 10 (new). A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric in accordance with claim 6, wherein said second layer comprises a blend of 42% lyocell fiber, 37% modacrylic fiber, and 21% para-amid fiber.